Revision in rates of LPG

†3203. PROF R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when the rates of LPG have been increased during the last one year alongwith the reasons for increasing these rates frequently;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to reduce the rate of LPG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The ex-storage point price of domestic LPG was increased only once during the year 2001-2002 i.e. effective 1st March, 2002. The price was subsequently reduced effective 17th March, 2002. The reason for increasing the price was to contain the subsidy burden on account of domestic LPG.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Acquisition of overseas oilfields by ONGC

3204. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to acquire oilfields abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

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† Origin a I notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ONGC) is engaged in hydrocarbon exploration and production (E&P) activities abroad. At present OVL has been participating in the following overseas projects;

(i) Block 06.1 offshore gas project in Vietnam, with 45% participating interest.

(ii) Sakkalin-I oil and gas project in Russia, with 20% participating interest.

(Hi) Block A-I offshore gas project in Myanmar, with 20°/) participating interest.

(iv) Exploration Block 8 in Iraq with 100% participating interest.

OVL is also pursuing E&P opportunities in some countries like Sudan, Oman, Libya, Kazakhstan. Indonesia and Venezuela.

LPG dealership in rural areas

3205. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorship presently operating in Andhra Pradesh. Oil PSU-wisc;

(b) the number of distributors catering the consumers of semi-urban and rural areas of the State, company-wise:

(c) whether the rural and far off areas of the State require more distributors; and

(d) if so, the action taken by each oil company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As on 1.1.2002. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), were operating 664 LPG distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh including 55 LPG distributorships in rural category and 23 in urban/rural category.

(c) and (d) OMCs have planned to set up 260 more LPG distributorships in rural category under various marketing plans in the State of Andhra Pradesh to increase the necessary infrastructure for adequate supply of LPG in rural areas.